

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF DRUGS—Second Edition—D. C. Garratt, B.Sc., Ph.D., (Lond.), F.R.I.C., Chief Analysts, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Philosophical Library, 1955. 670 pages, \$17.50.

This British manual has collected quantitative tests for drugs, not only from the British Pharmacopoeia and the British Pharmaceutical Codex, but also from many scientific periodicals and nonofficial texts such as *Analytical Chemistry*, *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, *American Journal of Pharmacy*, *Apotheker-Zeitung*, *Archiv für Pharmazie*, *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, etc. There is no chapter arrangement, as in most scientific books, but the first 523 pages are devoted to quantitative tests for official and nonofficial drugs, listed alphabetically; the next 29 pages are devoted to Oils, Fats and Waxes, the next 40 pages to Essential Oils and the next eight pages to Physical Methods. There are 13 appendices on Determination of Water, metallic impurities in organic substances, extraction of non-volatile organic materials from viscera, etc., determination of alkaloids, elimination of emulsions, determination of alcohol content, titration in nonaqueous solvents, and tables of constants. The most closely related American books are *Jenkins' Quantitative Pharmaceutical Chemistry*, published in 1949 and *Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists*, 1950. Since the first edition of Garratt's book appeared in 1937, there was a distinct need for the 1955 second edition.

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CARDIOLOGY NOTEBOOK—For Preliminary Instruction in Medical Curricula—Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1955. 95 pages, \$2.50.

This notebook has been compiled by a group of the medical faculty at Columbia to help the medical student learn his way through the maze of modern methods used in clinical cardiology. It is divided into four parts as follows: 1. Cardiac Fluoroscopy and X-Ray; 2. Electrocardiography; 3. Hemodynamics; 4. Nomenclature for Cardiac Diagnosis. The first three sections are arranged to show normal patterns and values followed by common disease patterns, while the final section describes the fundamentals of proper diagnosis. The outline will surely be of use to the student, but in several places it suffers from a cursory treatment of complicated subjects.

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ASCLEPIADES—His Life and Writings. Translated by Robert Montraville Green, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, Harvard Medical School. Elizabeth Licht, Publisher, 360 Fountain Street, New Haven, Conn., 1955. 167 pages, \$6.00.

There are so many names involved in this little book that it takes a while to sort them out. However it concerns the life and writings of Asclepiades of Bithynia, a prominent physician of Rome some 200 years before Galen. The first part is a translation by Robert Montraville Green of a Life of Asclepiades which was written by an Italian, Dr. Antonio Cocchi in 1762. The second part is a translation of a book by Christian Gottlieb Gumpert published in 1794, in which are collected fragments of Asclepiades' work on such matters as the state of Roman affairs before and about the age of Asclepiades, his principles of philosophy, his general pathologic and therapeutic principles and the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The "preface to the reader" is however by Christian Godfrey Gruner. The preface to the whole book is by Sidney Licht, but the publisher is Elizabeth Licht and the work is dedicated to Dr. Walter M. Solomon.

When the reader has unraveled this complicated nomenclature he can read the substance of the book with considerable pleasure.

PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCES—Held at the New York Hospital—Cornell Medical Center—Volume I—Edited by Claude E. Forkner, M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Cornell University Medical College. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., New York, 1955. 411 pages.

The content of this book consists of seventeen clinical conferences, often with patients present, held under the auspices of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York. Each conference deals with a separate subject, and all have been thoughtfully chosen to represent medical problems of interest to the practitioner of today. The participants are all outstanding persons in their fields, and have been chosen without regard to their university or other affiliations. Guiding spirit behind the programs, master of ceremonies, and editor of the stenographic reports which comprise the book is Claude E. Forkner, M.D.

The manner of presentation of material which this book uses has a great deal to commend it. With several persons participating in the discussion, a more balanced and integrated picture is possible. Being able to read the spoken words of the authorities as they argue the merits of issues facing all practitioners imparts a drama and interest which make the book easy reading and long remembered. The quality of the material will be readily apparent to anyone who reads the list of speakers. Not so readily described, but clearly the most important ingredient of the book, is the manner in which the conferences are directed by Dr. Forkner, who is able to raise points of interest to everyone, keep the speakers on the subject, point out discrepancies and fuzzy thinking, and finally synthesize the material in a lucid summary.

Some of the subjects include chemotherapy of malignant disease, coronary disease, the role of tobacco in lung disease, and the understanding of various headache patterns. There are many more, and it seems certain that subsequent volumes will keep pace with the most important problems facing the medical practitioner.

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PSYCHIATRY FOR THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN—C. Knight Aldrich, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota Medical School. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, 1955. 276 pages, \$5.75.

This is an excellent book. In the first place, the title accurately describes the contents of the book. This is not a worked-over or simplified psychiatric textbook. Dynamic Psychiatry is presented in terms of normal emotional growth and development at different ages or levels. Along with this the author presents the personality problems that may develop at different stages. Finally, there is excellent practical material on management and treatment. There is a minimum of technical psychiatric wordage. However, there is plenty of good sound material that can be read and applied by anyone who is trying to understand and help human beings.

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LEONARDO THE ANATOMIST. Elmer Belt, M.D., University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1955. 76 pages, \$2.00.

In this Logan Clendinning Lecture Dr. Belt has collected in brief form but heavily documented the story of Leonardo's Technical Innovations and Discoveries in Anatomy, and in Part II Leonardo's Studies of the Genito-Urinary System. The choice of the latter subject is quite natural since Dr. Belt is of course a prominent urologist. The little book is finely printed and illustrated and well worthy to join the many other books on Leonardo da Vinci.